

taxes ought to be outraged by AIG's decision to pay out such bonuses.

I returned from Wyoming this morning, and in the airport and on the plane, this is the topic people are talking about—taxpayers who are expecting value for their hard-earned taxpayer dollars, people who are asking about accountability, and people who are asking about oversight, saying: What in the world is going on back there in New York and in Washington?

While I understand that AIG has contractual obligations to fulfill, they also have an obligation to the American taxpayer, who now holds nearly 80 percent of the ownership of AIG stock.

To date, AIG has received nearly \$175 billion in taxpayer assistance. Similar to any publicly traded company, AIG must be accountable to shareholders, and the shareholders here are the American people.

This money was intended to serve as a liferaft to keep the company afloat. It was never intended to reward AIG employees for the trouble they have caused for our economy.

It is insulting to all taxpayers to see that their hard-earned money is being spent to save a company that doesn't appear to be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to save itself.

Unfortunately, the same irresponsible behavior that got AIG into this mess appears likely to keep them there. They say it is a contract, but if the American public owns 80 percent of the stock, the American taxpayers are the owners. Therefore, I say, show us these contracts that allow for this sort of retention bonus. The American public, the taxpayers, have a right to expect to see each and every one of these contracts.

You may say: Why is it the Treasury didn't demand that these contracts be renegotiated when we sent that first pile of money to AIG last year, the \$85 billion? The people of America get it, and now they say: Who is watching this? There has been a response letter written from the AIG CEO—the chairman and CEO—talking about this contractual agreement, this decision to pay these kinds of bonuses. He talks about his commitment to the future. He says: AIG hereby commits to use best efforts to reduce expected 2009 retention payments by at least—listen to this—30 percent. They are going to use their best efforts, so 2009 bonus payments are reduced by at least 30 percent.

Are we still talking about \$100 million in bonus payments for a company we continue to bail out? Any American taxpayer who reads that has to be offended by this approach to say we are going to pay bonuses again in 2009.

He goes on to say in his letter that they cannot attract and retain the best and the brightest talent to lead and to staff the AIG business if the employees believe their compensation is subject to continued and arbitrary adjustment by the U.S. Treasury. Arbitrary? Continued? Bring it out there and let the

owners of the company—the American people—make that decision. The American public will say they want accountability, oversight, and they want value for their taxpayer dollars. It is not what the American taxpayers are getting today from AIG.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WAKEFIELD ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish today to speak in support of S. 408, legislation that I introduced along with my colleague, Senator INOUE, to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMSC, Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services', HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration's, HRSA, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, MCHB. It is fitting that we do this in the year of the program's 25th anniversary.

The purpose of the EMSC Program is straightforward: to ensure state-of-the-art emergency medical care for ill or injured children and adolescents. Children have different medical needs than adults, and that presents special challenges for emergency and trauma care providers. These differences do not solely relate to medical supplies. They are also physiological and emotional. Not only will an adult-sized facemask not adequately administer oxygen to a child; but, for example, children's respiratory systems function differently, so they are more at risk for inflammation and infection; and they maintain fluid balances differently and thus are more prone to dehydration and death due to blood and fluid loss. Kids even may not be old enough or sufficiently cognizant to communicate what exactly is wrong with them or how they got hurt.

The EMSC Program has helped educate and train medical professionals to provide emergency care for children appropriately, because children are not just small adults.

The program has made extraordinary contributions in its 25 years—but disparities in children's emergency care still exist. According to the Institute of Medicine, IOM's 2006 report: "Emergency Care for Children: Growing

Pains," children account for nearly one-third of all emergency department visits, yet many hospitals are simply not prepared to handle pediatric patients. The IOM reported that only 6 percent of EDs in the United States have all of the necessary supplies to appropriately handle children's emergency care.

I am proud that my home State of Utah has played a special role in advancing the level of emergency medical care for children and teenagers. Working with the EMSC Program, Utah has participated in the Intermountain Regional Emergency Medical Services for Children Coordinating Council. The University of Utah is home to both the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center, NEDARC, and the Central Data Management Coordinating Center, CDMCC, for the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network, PECARN. Utah-based projects also helped pioneer the development of training materials on caring for special needs pediatric patients.

Each year, representatives of Utah's medical workforce come to visit and talk about the wonderful accomplishments and importance of the EMSC Program.

The IOM report also recommended doubling the EMSC Program budget over the next 5 years. Over the past several years, there has been a heightened interest in emergency preparedness and emergency services coordination. Despite this, there has been little concern with pediatric emergency readiness. The interest and financial support has gone to predominately support communications and coordination of local, State, and Federal emergency resources. The focus has been on the general population, on adult care; there is not a national strategy to address the complex emergency care needs of children. In light of the recent and current events related to national readiness, such as a potential influenza outbreak, bioterrorist attack, or natural disaster, children's readiness must also be acknowledged and funded.

The EMSC Program last expired in 2005. EMSC remains the only Federal program dedicated to examining the best ways to deliver various forms of care to children in emergency settings. Its reauthorization is long overdue.

The House passed its version of the EMSC reauthorization bill in April of last year by an overwhelming vote of 390 to 1; but, unfortunately, the Senate was not able to take up the bill before the 110th Congress adjourned. While I surely understand the uncertainties of the Senate's legislative agenda, I am disappointed we were unable to pass this very important reauthorization legislation to which there was no opposition.

S. 408 contains the same language that received such tremendous bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support its timely passage.

# IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Even before the almost (daily) increase in a gallon of gas, I tried to drive as little as possible and carpool when possible. And, when driving, to bunch errand together in the same area of the city, so as to use less gasoline.

It is summer, now, and I try to use my car just once a week, for church on Sunday (buses do not run on Sunday, bike helmet causes helmet hair-do, which is not cool for church).

When I do purchase gas, it shocks me how much I pay. I did not budget for \$4+/gallon gas. I worry that the effect of escalating petroleum prices on all sectors of our commerce and so, my life (along with the incredible rise in health care costs), may severely compromise my carefully-planned retirement budget. Some days I wonder what will become of me.

However, I keep on trying to live lightly, use Boise's bare-bones bus system, and ride my bike whenever and wherever I can. I know I do not look chic with my old-lady Schwinn with side baskets, but at my age, I try not to be too vain.

I have more time than employed people to use the bus and ride my bike to the grocery, appointments, and other places. Unfortunately, I also have osteoarthritis, so riding my bike or walking any distance from the bus stops has become more difficult.

Nonetheless, I try to do my part to stay green and influence others to do the same. I am a little old lady who conserves water in my landscape and in my house (e.g., bucket of water in the shower to catch the cold water while waiting for the shower to heat up, buying/installing water saving fixtures and appliances), recycles and pulls recyclables out of others' trash cans, has implemented several recycling programs, has a mostly xeric landscape, eschews plastic water bottles and paper cups, and is pure in heart.

I wish I had more answers on what will become of all of us. On dark days, I think our civilization is going to implode because we do not seem to be able to get smart enough fast enough to save ourselves. We knew—as individuals, as a government, as a society—that we would run out of fossil fuels and

would need alternative energy sources. They are at least 20 years out from being viable.

I pray that God will let me die before the last catastrophic days of all our lives. Thank you for a chance to tell my story and express my opinion.

FRANCES, Boise.

It saddens me greatly that we Idahoans, along with all Americans are suffering like we are at the hands of big government and environmentalists. It is clear and has been for years that we can and should be accessing our own resources in the United States. We should not be dependent on other countries for our oil. It is simple really. No matter how long it takes it needs to be done and we should not put it off another minute. I fear greatly that our next president (the one most likely to be elected) will overlook this issue and it will rapidly get worse.

The general public, average hard working Americans are struggling. If one does not make \$100,000 a year, it is getting impossible to live. I look at my own situation (which is not good) and then wonder how those less fortunate are even surviving?

My husband is a small partner on a dairy. I lost my job in November of last year due to an office closure and I am now working from home. Yet, there is hardly any work. As a travel agent, money only comes in when people travel. And that is not happening much anymore. We have never had much left over after bills were paid; however a year ago if my kids needed socks, I could at least buy a package. This year, I have to use one credit . . . card to pay another just to keep afloat. In fact, I have to put my groceries on credit which is pretty much run out. Do you not find that sad? I fear greatly what is ahead. Should not people who have good jobs like us be able to live without worrying about food or socks? We are \$500 away from bankruptcy.

And the stimulus package? Really, what kind of joke was that? First of all, we were lied to about when we would receive it direct deposited, so a good chunk of it went to NSF fees. Then the rest went to barely put a dent in catching up bills. Save it? Whose idea (dream) was that? I do not know a person who saved it.

I am behind in my car payments which I guess if I lose my car, I will not need to worry much about gas now, will I? I am sick, insecure, and sad about what I know is coming. We Americans cannot hold on much longer. Why is not someone doing anything about this? Maybe because most government officials make enough money to live comfortably right? I bet you can afford socks right? I bet you can buy food for your family without maxing a credit card to do so. Why cannot I?

Please . . . help us . . . and soon.

MICHELLE.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and for contacting us about how energy prices are having an impact on us.

My wife and I are both college graduates; she is a teacher and I am a chiropractor at Saint Alphonsus Hospital. We have sky-high student loans we pay on and as such watch our budget close. The rise in gas as well as the result in increased prices in food has caused us to ride our bikes to work; we live almost in Eagle and I ride the Greenbelt all the way into downtown Boise to try and save money. We have also planted a garden in hopes that it will save us some money at the store.

Our overall shopping is down, we do not buy clothing, or "extras" anymore and we just buy what we need and then save up for fun items once in a while. Our shopping has turned from new items to more and more

used or discount so I know that if others are feeling this way too the major retail stores will be suffering a major blow, no wonder why the economy is slow? We love to travel, but we do not as much now due to the cost of gas, food and airline tickets. In short, our way of life is being crippled and will continue to be so till we wake up and start using our own natural resources.

BRIAN and AMY, Boise.

I have watched to rising cost of fuel affect everyone I know here in the Treasure Valley. My parents own a small trucking company in Emmett, and employed two other drivers. When the price of diesel fuel hit over \$3.50 a gallon, my stepfather had to lay off the other two drivers just to keep him in business. Now the price of diesel is over \$4.80 a gallon, and my stepfather is going to have to go out of business. My parents are too young to retire, but too old to get into any other line of work. What are they going to do to survive? Could you ask your other Senators that please? I have a friend who lives in Emmett, but works in Nampa at Buy MPC loyally for the past 12 years. He bought a house in Emmett at this time, and was living the American dream. Today he is starting to consider letting his home go into foreclosure. This is because he cannot afford the gasoline to drive his car to work and back, and he is thinking of renting an apartment in Nampa to be closer to work. He does not drive some gas-guzzling SUV, but a fuel-efficient compact, and his fuel expense is still more than he can afford. Many of my friends are in a very similar situation. Are the CEOs of the oil companies going to come in and fix things so my parents and friends get to keep their jobs and their homes? Could you ask them that for me? I wonder how many CEOs of oil companies, and the big city politicians, would be willing to come out here to Idaho and work for \$11.00 an hour and make the commute from Emmett to Boise five days a week? Maybe they should, so that way they know pain many hard working Idahoan's are going through right now.

I have some ideas for you and other Senators to think about. Do any of you watch the Discovery Channel? I have seen many solutions to our energy needs on this channel. In Europe they are testing a Hydrogen Fusion Reactor. This thing is environmentally safe, produces no waste, and cannot melt down. It also produces a lot more power than the old nuclear reactors that we have now. Why not look at doing this later on down the road, instead of going nuclear? During the last energy crisis of the latter 70s and early 80s, my grandfather showed me a solution. He ran his 1960s Farmal tractor on alcohol, and all he had to do was make a minor adjustment to the carburetor. He did the same thing with his 65 Ford pick-up. If this worked so well with 1960s technology, why would not it work with all the technology that has come after it? I turn on the news, and all I hear politicians and CEOs saying how we either cannot do these things, or it would be more expensive if we did these things. Yet, I know from personal knowledge, and from what I see and hear on the Discovery Channels, that this just is not the truth. Maybe the time has come for Idaho to stop waiting on the federal government to do something and take the bull by the horns. Why cannot Idaho fix Idaho's energy needs? Thank you for your time in reading this, and thank you for asking for these stories.

AARON.

My husband and three children live in Nampa. We both work in Boise. It is a 25-mile commute one way every day in the morning five days a week for my husband and three times a week for me. Going to the